

way a priest who was foolish enough to revile Peter de la Mare as a traitor, they beat the unfortunate man to death. News of the uproar was brought to the Bishop of London, who instantly rose from dinner and hastened after them. He overtook them in time, and induced them to relinquish their purpose, so giving to the Savoy another four years of precarious existence, till a more famous riot finally levelled it to the ground. The mob contented itself with parading the streets of London, insulting those of the Duke's supporters whom they met, and reversing his arms which were hung up over a shop in Cheapside. His retainers, who had formerly been seen swaggering and hectoring about the streets under the protection of his badge, now plucked the dangerous symbol from their necks and hid it in their sleeves.<sup>1</sup>

A riot, before the days of mass meetings and resolutions, was a useful, almost a legitimate, mode of expressing public feeling. The chronicler, who is distinctly a partisan of the popular cause, sees nothing abnormal or even censurable in the violence of the mob, and considers it quite a matter of course that they intended to kill the Duke and Lord Percy if they had been fortunate enough to lay hands on them. The Londoners had thus successfully proclaimed their determination to protect their liberties, and had shown the force at their command. The Government had none on the spot to set against them. There was no standing army, and the police, such as it was, was municipal. The Duke for a week or two had to submit. The obnoxious bill before Parliament was never heard of again, and a deputation sent by the citizens was politely received by the King. When introduced into the royal presence, they complained bitterly of the attack on their liberties, and asserted that as no serious injury had been actually done by the rioters to any of the Duke's personal attendants, he had no just ground of complaint. No one on either side mentioned the case of the priest who had been beaten to death. As he had not been wearing the Duke's livery and had no patron to maintain his quarrel, his fate was a matter of small concern. The King promised that the liberties of the city should henceforth be respected, and

<sup>1</sup> Lofie's *Memorials of the Savoy; Chron. Ang.*, 121-6 and 397.